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## CLASS Notes

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# CLASS

## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES

### notes



April 30, 2010

## Welcome to Georgia Southern University / College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences

CLASS has much to celebrate this month! We would like to congratulate History major Derreck Calkins for receiving 1st place and MFA student Patricia Quilichini for receiving 2nd place in the 8th Annual Graduate Research Symposium.

In the Department of Foreign Languages, Mike McGrath's work "The Metadramatic Function of the Aside in *La traicion de la amistad*" was published in the spring edition (7.1) of *Comedia Performance*, the leading journal in Spanish Golden Age Literature. David Seaman and Jose Hidalgo were also recognized for their research efforts this past year. Nanette Eisenhart was selected by the Office of Greek Life as their Professor of the Year.

In the Department of History, Professor Kathleen Comerford was awarded a prestigious Mascioli fellowship at the Folger Shakespeare Library for her project "Jesuit Foundations and Medici Power, 1541-1700."

In the Department of Communication Arts, Professor Gary Dartt directed his final Georgia Southern theatre production, *The Visit*, April 7-10. After twenty-three years at Georgia Southern, Gary Dartt will certainly leave behind a lasting legacy for future students and faculty. Public Relations graduate [Lynn Brinson](#) was named Director of Downtown Development for the City of Swainsboro.

The Department of Art received community accolades from [television](#) and [print](#) media for putting on another successful ArtsFest event. CLASS extends a special thank you to Stephanie Neal for the tremendous amount of work that goes into make an event of this magnitude come to fruition. Also, Fine Arts graduate [Kelly Denton](#) shares her continued love of art with her home town of Spanish Fort, Alabama by opening a community art center called Paint Slings.

In the Department of Political Science, senior political science major John Kile was recognized as the First-Year Experience Peer Leader of the Year.

In the Department of Psychology, Karen Naufel was awarded the Jane S. Halonen (early career) teaching award from Division 2 (Teaching Psychology) of the American Psychological Association. This a national-level award which Karen will accept at the annual APA meeting in San Diego in August.

In the Department of Writing and Linguistics, Dr. Neal Saye was recognized as the 2009-2010 Georgia Southern University Professor of the Year, an honor initiated by Georgia Southern students. The Georgia Southern Writing Project was notified of full funding (\$46,000) for the coming year, which will support programs and partnerships on and off campus. Georgia Southern has also been selected to participate in

the 5-day National Writing Project Director's Retreat in August.

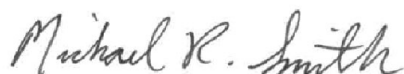
In the Department of Literature and Philosophy, Dr. Mary Villeponteaux won the Agnes Strickland prize for best paper given at the Queen Elizabeth I Society meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas, March 18-20, 2010 for her essay "'Goodly Musicke in Her Regiment': The Elusive Harmony of Mercy and Justice in Elizabeth's Reign."

In the Department of Music, assistant professor [David Murray](#) performed as a guest pianist in Shawnee, Oklahoma to celebrate the bicentennial of Schumann's birth. Michael Olson had a work played at the New York Electroacoustic Music Festival March 25-27, 2010. Yemin Oh and John Thompson had a work played at the Society for Electroacoustic Music in the United States National Conference April 8-11, 2010. John Thompson also had two works accepted at the International Computer Music Conference. Michael Olson and John Thompson coauthored a studio report to be published in the International Computer Music Conference proceedings June 2010. Dan Pittman has been awarded a Fulbright Senior Specialist Grant for six weeks this summer at Payap University in Chiang, Thailand. As part of the receipt of the Fulbright Grant, Dan will rehearse and conduct a public concert with the Chiang Mai Youth Philharmonic Band, teach and lead seminars for the music students at Payap University, Chiang Mai, and serve as a consultant for the instrumental music teachers in the secondary schools of the city. Department chair Richard Mercier will have his article "The Lullabies of Max Reger" published in the National Association of Teachers and Singing *Journal of Singing*. Richard was recently elected chair of the Board of Regents Fine Arts Committee for the University System of Georgia. Georgia Southern student Colby Parker has won the Emerson Scholarship to the Interlochen Summer Music Camp in the Orchestral Division, a program reserved for extremely gifted students.

In the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, 1998 CLASS Distinguished Alumnus and CLASS Advisory Board member Lee Berger made an archaeological discovery that will impact the theories of human evolution. He appeared on the cover of the [New York Times](#) in April, and he was featured on CBS's [60 Minutes](#). Professor Sue Moore is serving as the principal investigator in collaboration with the Department of Natural Resources to uncover mysteries surrounding Camp Lawton, near Millen, GA, a site that received hundreds, if not thousands, of Union prisoners from Andersonville Prison during the Civil War. Read full coverage [here](#).

As you can see, it has been a highly successful and productive year in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. On behalf of the College, I thank you for your continued interest and support of CLASS.

Warm Regards,



Michael R. Smith, Dean

## Writing and Linguistics Department

The Department of Writing and Linguistics, one of only two dozen independent, degree-offering departments of writing in North America, continues to find ways to advance its mission in serving students and the community through innovative programming in the areas of creative writing, professional and technical writing, rhetoric and composition, and linguistics delivered by award-winning, internationally-recognized faculty.

This year, the Department under the leadership of its new chair, Dr. Randall McClure, consolidated its Bachelor of Arts degree into a general degree program. The revisions to the program allow students more flexibility in pursuing coursework that prepares them to enter a variety of professions and areas of advanced study appropriate for degree holders in the early twenty-first century. The changes include the addition of a

course in "Careers in Writing and Linguistics" as well as a capstone requirement. The program, scheduled to launch in Fall 2010, is designed to serve the 115 majors currently pursuing the degree as well as new students interested in the study of writing and linguistics at Georgia Southern University. Graduates of the program continue to be successful, like alumnus Zachary Bush who published his second and third books of poetry this year.

The Department continues to be active in the community. The Department held its first event in celebration of the National Day on Writing, continued to host award-winning writers through its participation in the Georgia Poetry Circuit, and intensified its efforts to assist in the professional development of teachers through the Georgia Southern Writing Project. This summer, the Department will host its first visiting writer, Janisse Ray, winner of the 2000 National Book Award for *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood*. Ms. Ray will be teaching a course on "Writing Memoir" designed specifically for GSU undergraduates. These efforts are complimented by the Department's establishment of a community advisory board as well as the publication of its first annual newsletter, *WriteFace*. The Department serves the larger writing community as well. Recently, the Department was awarded the opportunity to host the 2013 national conference of writing program administrators. This conference adds to its annual outreach efforts through the Student Success in Writing Conference (now in its 13th year) and the Georgia Conference on Information Literacy (now in its 6th year).

The faculty in Writing and Linguistics continue to be recognized for their efforts in teaching and research. Dr. Lori Amy, winner of a 2009 Fulbright award, published a new book, *The Wars We Inherit*. In addition, Dr. Martha Pennington published the text, *Innovation and Leadership in English Language Teaching*, and Professor Eric Nelson published his chapbook, *The Twins*, winner of the 2009 Split Oak Press chapbook competition. Professor Nelson was also recognized for his career achievements in teaching, creative work, and service through his selection for the 2009 Ruffin Cup, the highest honor in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. Dr. Neal Saye was recognized as Professor of the Year at the 2010 Honors Day ceremony, and Dr. McClure and Ms. Joy Goldstein were co-recipients of the 2009-2010 Research Initiative award from the Conference on College Composition and Communication. Other awards include Dr. Thomas Klein's selection as the 2009 Dorothy Smith Golden Research Fellow and Professor Sonya Huber's selection for the 2009 Dorothy Smith Golden Award for Teaching Excellence.

The Department of Writing and Linguistics is dedicated to serving students, the local community and the southern Georgia region, and the national community of writing and linguistics scholars. For more information, contact Dr. McClure by email at [randallmcclure@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:randallmcclure@georgiasouthern.edu) or by phone at 912-478-2411.

## In Memoriam

The Department of History lost one of its own on Tuesday, March 16, 2010. Dr. Charlie Crouch, Associate Professor of History, passed away after an extended battle with cancer. A wonderful teacher, selfless colleague, and generous friend, Dr. Crouch will be truly missed. On behalf of the Faculty, Staff, and Students of the Department, we offer our deepest sympathies to his loving family.

The family has asked for donations to be made to the Hollings Cancer Center at the [Medical University of South Carolina](#) in Dr. Crouch's name.



Charlie Crouch

1954-2010

## Upcoming **CLASS** Events

(Complete [CLASS Event Schedule](#))

### **May 1**

**10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

Club Mud

Sculpture & Ceramics Building

### **7:30 p.m.**

Junior Recital

Carol A. Carter Recital Hall

### **May 2, 4:00 p.m.**

Bells of Fury Handbell Choir with guest artist, Linda Cionitti

Statesboro First United Methodist Church

### **May 3-7**

Exhibition: BFA Candidates

Center for Art and Theatre

### **May 3, 7:30 p.m.**

Graduation Recital

Carol A. Carter Recital Hall

### **May 8**

Spring Commencement

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## CLASS Notes Updates

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